



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS, Nannette Rodriguez  
Tel: 305.673.7575, E-mail: [nrodriguez@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:nrodriguez@miamibeachfl.gov)

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Six Internationally Recognized Artists Selected For Site Specific Works at the Miami Beach Convention Center**

**Miami Beach, FL:** When the international call to artists to create public art for the Miami Beach Convention Center renovation and expansion project closed in January 2015, over five hundred artists from around the world submitted qualifications for consideration.

After a competitive and rigorous selection process, the Miami Beach Art in Public Places Professional Advisory Committee recommended the following renowned artists to create site specific, integrated works of public art for the Miami Beach Convention Center Project: Franz Ackermann (Berlin), Elmgreen & Dragset (London/Berlin), Ellen Harvey (Brooklyn), Joseph Kosuth (London/New York), Sarah Morris (New York) and Joep Van Lieshout (Rotterdam).

The proposed works by these artists exemplify Miami Beach's prestigious quality commitment to commission world class works of public art. The Miami Beach Convention Center public art project is a collaboration between the City of Miami Beach and Miami-Dade County's Art in Public Places programs. The public art contribution is estimated at \$7 million.

"The commissioning of these public art works elevates the Miami Beach Art in Public Places program to a whole new level, bringing the best contemporary artists of our times to one of the world's most popular destination," said Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine.

Highly integrated, complex designs, these monumental works of public art will be located throughout the new convention center. Joseph Kosuth is creating *Located World, Miami Beach*, a neon and text installation for the main lobby that shows Miami Beach as the center of the world. Elmgreen and Dragset will mark the greenspace at the west entrance with *Bent Pool*, a sculpture that turns a swimming pool into a monumental arch. The grand ballroom will feature Ellen Harvey's *Waterways*, a series of glass panels that reference Miami Beach's unique connection to the many bodies of water that nourish the larger Florida ecosystem. Sarah Morris will design the exterior walls of the northeast entranceway with *Sans Souci*, a large-scale tile installation that references Morris Lapidus' first Miami Beach architectural work in 1949. Franz Ackermann will adorn the southeast corner of the center with a dynamic mural emblematic of Miami Beach's international tourism, globalization and urbanism. Joep Van Lieshout will create an installation of *Humanoids*, a series of sculptures for the northeast ballroom park that draw inspiration from nature and the roots of mankind.

These new works will enrich the public art landscape of Miami Beach, home to an outstanding collection of Art in Public Places projects, which includes permanent works by Dan Graham, Roy Lichtenstein, Judy Pfaff and Tobias Rehberger, among others.

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## FRANZ ACKERMANN

Franz Ackermann was born in 1963 in Neumarkt St. Veit, Germany. He studied at Akademie der Bildenden Künste, Munich (1984-88) and at Hochschule für Bildende Kunst, Hamburg (1989-91). He holds a professorship of Fine Arts at the Academy of Fine Arts Karlsruhe (since 2001). Ackermann has participated in numerous international solo exhibitions including Kunsthalle Karlsruhe, Karlsruhe (2014); Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, (2013); Faena Arts Center, Buenos Aires, (2012); Kunstmuseum Bonn, Bonn, (2009); Kunstmuseum St. Gallen, St. Gallen, (2009); Irish Museum of Modern Art, Dublin, (2005); Museum of Contemporary Art, Chicago, (2002); Stedelijk Museum, Amsterdam, (2002); Portikus, Frankfurt, (1997). He has executed several site specific works including 'Hügel und Zweifel', Berlinische Galerie, Berlin, (2014); 'Franz Ackermann: Walking South', Faena Arts Center, Buenos Aires, (2012); 'Coming Home' and '(Meet Me) At the Waterfall', AT&T Stadium, Dallas, (2009); 'Sunrise, Sunset', Goldman Sachs, New York, (2009); 'The Great Journey', Georg-Brauchle-Ring Station, Munich Underground, (2003). [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz\\_Ackermann](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franz_Ackermann)

## ELMGREEN & DRAGSET

Michael Elmgreen (b. 1961, Copenhagen) and Ingar Dragset (b. 1969, Trondheim) are based in Berlin and have worked together as an artist duo since 1995. They have held solo exhibitions worldwide, including at PLATEAU, Samsung Museum of Art, Seoul; National Gallery of Denmark, Copenhagen; Astrup Fearnley Museet, Oslo; Victoria and Albert Museum, London; Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam; ZKM Museum of Modern Art, Karlsruhe; MUSAC, León; The Power Plant, Toronto; Serpentine Gallery, London; Tate Modern, London; and Kunsthalle Zürich. They have participated in the Liverpool, Singapore, Moscow, Gwangju, São Paulo, Istanbul, and Berlin biennials and received a special mention for their exhibition "The Collectors", Nordic and Danish Pavilions, 53rd Venice Biennale (2009). They were shortlisted for the Hugo Boss Prize, Guggenheim Museum, New York (2000) and won the Preis der Nationalgalerie, Hamburger Bahnhof, Berlin (2002). In 2012 Elmgreen & Dragset were selected for London's Fourth Plinth Commission in Trafalgar Square. [www.elmgreen-dragset.com](http://www.elmgreen-dragset.com)

## ELLEN HARVEY

Ellen Harvey is a Brooklyn-based British-born artist. She has exhibited extensively in the U.S. and internationally and was included in the 2008 Whitney Biennial. She studied at Harvard, Yale Law School and the Whitney Independent Study Program. She has completed commissions for New York Percent For Art, New York Arts in Transit, the Philadelphia International Airport, the Chicago Transit Authority, the Flemish National Architect and the Federal Art in Architecture program. Recent exhibitions include *The Unloved* at the Groeninge Museum, Belgium, *The Alien's Guide to the Ruins of Washington DC* at the Corcoran Gallery and *The Nudist Museum* at the Bass Museum. She has been the subject of several books, including a new monograph, *Ellen Harvey: Museum of Failure*, published by Gregory R. Miller & Co. this year. Harvey's *Metal Painting* and *Museum of Ornamental Leaves* are currently on view in Philadelphia at the Barnes Foundation and Locks Gallery, respectively. [www.ellenharvey.info](http://www.ellenharvey.info)

## JOSEPH KOSUTH

Joseph Kosuth (Ohio, USA 1945) is one of the pioneers of Conceptual art and installation art, initiating language based works and appropriation strategies in the 1960's. His work has consistently explored the production and role of language and meaning within art. His fifty-year inquiry into the relation of language to art has taken the form of installations, museum exhibitions, public commissions and publications throughout Europe, the Americas and Asia, including most of the Documentas and Venice Biennales in recent decades. Kosuth has received several honours and awards, among them: the Chevalier de l'ordre des Arts et des Lettres from the French government (1993); the Menzione d'Onore at the Venice Biennale (1993); the Decoration of Honour in Gold for services to the Republic of Austria (2003); and he was inducted into the Royal Belgian Academy (2012). In 2015 the Instituto Superior de Arte, at the University of Havana, awarded him a Honoris Causa doctorate. Kosuth currently holds the Millard Chair at Goldsmiths, University of London. [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph\\_Kosuth](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joseph_Kosuth)

## **SARAH MORRIS**

Sarah Morris was born in 1967 in the UK. She studied at Brown University (1985–89) and Jesus College, Cambridge University (1987–88) before completing the Whitney Museum of American Art Independent Study Program (1989–90). She received the American Academy Berlin Prize Fellow (1999-2000) and Joan Mitchell Painting Award (2001-02). Morris has had numerous international solo exhibitions including Museum of Modern Art, Oxford (1999); Kunsthalle Zürich (2000); Hamburger Bahnhof – Museum für Gegenwart, Berlin (2001); Moderna Museet, Stockholm (2005); Palais de Tokyo, Paris (2005); Museum Boijmans van Beuningen, Rotterdam (2006); Fondation Beyeler, Riehen/Basel (2008); Lenbachhaus, Munich (2008); Museo d'Arte Moderna di Bologna (2009); Museum für Moderne Kunst, Frankfurt am Main (2009); Wexner Centre for the Arts, Columbus, Ohio (2012); Musée National Fernand Léger, Biot (2012); Kunsthalle Bremen, Bremen (2013); M Museum, Leuven (2015). [www.sarah-morris.info](http://www.sarah-morris.info)

## **JOEP VAN LIESHOUT**

Joep van Lieshout (Ravenstein, the Netherlands, 1963) is a sculptor, visionary and enfant terrible. With his sculptures and installations, buildings and furniture, utopias and dystopias he explores the boundaries of art. His work focuses on systems, power, autarky, life, sex, and death - the human individual in the face of a greater whole.

Van Lieshout's international solo exhibitions, include La Friche le Belle de Mai, Marseille (2013); Mumok, Vienna (2010); Winzavod, Moscow (2009); Museum Folkwang, Essen (2008); Hayward Gallery, London (2007); Central del Arte, Guadalajara (2006); Kröller-Müller Museum, Otterlo (2005); MACRO, Rome (2005); Camden Arts Centre, London (2002); PS1, New York (2001); Museum of Contemporary Art, Miami (1999); USF Contemporary Art Museum, Tampa (1999); The Contemporary Arts Center, Cincinnati (1999); Walker Arts Center, Minneapolis (1998); Museum für Gegenwartskunst, Zürich (1995). His works have been included in the Gwangju, Venice and São Paulo biennials, and are part of the collections of museums and galleries worldwide. [www.ateliervanlieshout.com](http://www.ateliervanlieshout.com)

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## **ABOUT CITY OF MIAMI BEACH ART IN PUBLIC PLACES**

Art in Public Places (AiPP) is a program of the City of Miami Beach for commissioning public artwork. The program was created in 1984 and the ordinance was adopted in 1995. The program is funded 1 ½ % of all capital costs of City projects and joint private/public projects. The AiPP Committee is composed of seven members appointed by the full City Commission who serve in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Commission. For additional information about the Art in Public Places Program please go to [www.miamibeachfl.gov/tcd/aipp](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov/tcd/aipp)

## **ABOUT MIAMI-DADE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES**

Miami-Dade Art in Public Places was established in 1973 with the passage of an ordinance allocating 1.5% of construction cost of new county buildings for the purchase or commission of artworks, educational programs and collection maintenance. The Art Trust Fund is administered by a County Commission-appointed citizens' board, the Art in Public Places Trust, in consultation with its Professional Advisory Committee. For more information about the Art in Public Places Program, please go [www.miamidadepublicart.org](http://www.miamidadepublicart.org).

## **ABOUT THE MIAMI BEACH CONVENTION CENTER RENOVATION & EXPANSION**

The renovation and expansion of the \$615 million project will transform the area into a state-of-the-art convention center and public space that will attract new national and international events and conventions. The center's upcoming renovation is estimated to generate an economic impact of \$5 billion over 30 years. [www.mbccfuture.com](http://www.mbccfuture.com)

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For additional information including artist statements, complete curriculum vitae's and images of proposed artwork please contact:

**Dennis Leyva**

Public Art Coordinator,  
City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places  
1700 Convention Center Drive  
Miami Beach, FL  
305.604.2477  
[DennisLeyva@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:DennisLeyva@miamibeachfl.gov)

**Brandi Reddick**

Curator and Artists Manager,  
Miami-Dade County Art in Public Places  
111 NW First Street  
Miami, FL  
305.375.5436  
[brandi@miamidade.gov](mailto:brandi@miamidade.gov)

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